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NEXTDOOR.COM, INC.,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
RAJ ABHYANKER,  
Defendant.

Case No. [12-cv-05667-EMC](#) (WHO)

**ORDER ON MOTION TO WITHDRAW  
AS ATTORNEY**

Re: Dkt. No. 217

Defendant Raj Abhyanker’s attorneys, Bruno Tarabichi, Heather Norton, Scott Allen, Roy Montgomery, and Brian Orion (collectively, “Counsel”) filed a Motion to Withdraw as Attorney (the “Motion”) pursuant to both the mandatory withdrawal and permissive withdrawal provisions of the California Rules of Professional Conduct 3-700(B) and (C). *See* Docket Nos. 217, 242, 253. A hearing for the Motion was held *ex parte* for reasons of confidentiality on July 10, 2014.

This matter was referred to me to avoid any potential prejudice stemming from the facts underlying Counsel’s Motion, and so I **DENY** Abhyanker’s request to have this Motion heard by Judge Chen, as Judge Chen will preside over the trial. *See* Docket No. 251. There is no need to determine whether withdrawal is mandatory because it is undisputed that, based on Counsel’s declarations and the arguments presented at hearing, there is a clear breakdown in the attorney-client relationship between Abhyanker and Counsel warranting withdrawal under California Rule of Professional Conduct 3-700(C). Accordingly, I **GRANT** Counsel’s Motion to Withdraw.

Counsel are in the midst of producing documents for Abhyanker in response to a Discovery Order of Judge Cousins. *See* Docket No. 250. I will not require Counsel to make any discretionary determinations regarding the documents but, given their familiarity with the case and the impending discovery cutoff, I ordered that they meet and confer with Kuscha Hatami,

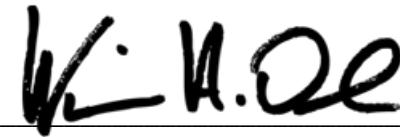
1 Abhyanker's sole remaining counsel, on how to transition the privilege review that is required.

2 Counsel and Hatami have met and conferred, and have reached an agreement with  
3 Abhyanker on how to complete the remaining discovery by the July 18 deadline. *See* Docket No.  
4 262. As agreed, Counsel shall work with the ediscovery vendor (Essential) until the privilege  
5 screen is complete, at which point Hatami shall take over and assume responsibility for producing  
6 the responsive, non-privileged documents. Counsel shall make themselves available by telephone,  
7 should Hatami have questions regarding production.

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9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

10 Dated: July 14, 2014



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12 WILLIAM H. ORRICK  
13 United States District Judge  
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